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Tourism and recreation

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Many coastal regions in the Northeast Atlantic region are popular holiday destinations. Since the 1990s, the number of tourists in this region has gradually increased to 100 million in 1998 and 146 million in 2007 (*OSPAR QSR 2010*¹⁹⁸⁸¹⁷). In 2011, the Belgian coast accounted for 5,715,223 arrivals and 32,554,895 overnight stays (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011*²²⁵³⁷⁶). 60.7% of the arrivals (excl. second home tourism) and 80.8% (excl. second home tourism) of the overnight stays in the province of West Flanders (2010) can be attributed to the coastal zone (*toerisme kerncijfers Provincie West-Vlaanderen 2011*²²⁵³⁸²). At peak moments the number of people on the coast increases strongly with 210,000 day trippers and 300,000 staying tourists on top of the 215,000 inhabitants. At these moments, population densities of 2,830 persons per km² are reached in the 4 km wide coastal strip, which is comparable to the densities of important Flemish urban areas such as Antwerp (*strategisch beleidsplan voor toerisme aan de kust 2009-2014*²¹⁶⁸³⁵). In the hinterland, the tourist and recreational regions of the Bruges woodland and the Westhoek area accounted for about 470,000 arrivals and more than 1.1 million overnight stays (*trendrapport Brugse Ommeland 2006-2011*²²⁵³⁷⁵, *trendrapport Westhoek 2006-2011*²²⁵³⁷⁷). It should be mentioned that the borders of these regions extend further than the hinterland communities (the strategic policy plans for tourism and recreation: *Bruges woodland (2004-2008)*²²⁵³⁷¹ and *Westhoek (2008-2013)*²²⁵³⁷³).

11.1 Policy context

Considering that the coast constitutes a ‘macro product’ within Flemish tourism but is completely located in the province of West Flanders, it has been decided to draft a policy plan jointly by ‘Tourism Flanders-Brussels’ (*Toerisme Vlaanderen*), under the supervision of the Flemish minister of Tourism (Flemish level, *beleidsnota toerisme 2009-2014*²¹⁴⁶⁷⁵, and ‘Westtoer’ (provincial level). The policy of the Westhoek and the Bruges Woodland regions were defined on a provincial level by *Westtoer* in the strategic policy plans for tourism and recreation of the Bruges Woodland (*het Brugse Ommeland (2004-2008)*²²⁵³⁷¹) and the Westhoek area (*de Westhoek (2008-2013)*²²⁵³⁷³).

To support this policy, the Flemish government and the minister of tourism provided funding in the context of the ‘Coastal Impulse Programme’ (*Impulsprogramma Kust (since 2010)*, before Coastal Action Plan I (*Kustactieplan*) (1997-2002), II (2000-2004) and III (20005-2009)) (more information: *nota aan Vlaamse regering*²²⁵⁴⁹⁶), to invest in certain coastal-related projects. A permanent measurement and monitoring system has furthermore been developed (KiTS, Coastal-Indicators-Tourist-Statistical) that publishes numbers with respect to the tourist activities along the coast three times a year. These statistics are annually bundled in a trend report (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011*²²⁵³⁷⁶). More information on the sectoral legislation with regard to tourism can be found on the website of Tourism Flanders-Brussels (*Toerisme Vlaanderen*) and in the coastal codex, theme *tourism and recreation*.

The policy concerning outdoor recreation is described in the strategic policy plan for outdoor recreation for the province of West Flanders 2009-2018 (*het Strategisch beleidsplan openluchtrecreatie voor de Provincie West-Vlaanderen 2009-2018*²²⁵³⁷²). The legislative framework of the recreation and sport activities along the coast has been extensively elaborated in the coastal codex, themes *tourism and recreation*, *coastal zone management* and *local legislation* and is also discussed by *Deraus (2005)*⁷⁸³⁰⁰ and *De Wachter & Volckaert (2005)*⁷⁸³⁰² (*GAUFRE project BELSPO*). With respect to water recreation along the coast, the *Royal Decree of 4 August 1981* is of interest concerning the Police and Shipping regulation in the Belgian territorial sea, harbours and beaches (more information: *website FPS Mobility listing shipping rules*). Furthermore, the *law of 20 January 1999* and the associated Royal Decrees stipulate a number of restrictions for recreation in marine protected areas. The regulation on boating and water recreation on the fairways is discussed by the DG Maritime Transport (*DG Maritiem Vervoer*, FPS Mobility and Transport) and in the following documents: *Vademecum van de pleziervaart in België (2011)*²²⁵³⁸⁰, *De pleziervaart op de bevaarbare waterwegen in Vlaanderen (2011)*²²⁵³⁸⁰ and *Wijzer op het water (2010)*¹⁹⁸⁴⁵⁸.

The *European Directive concerning the management of bathing water quality (2006/7/EC)* stipulates the standards the bathing water quality has to meet (more information: *De nieuwe zwemwaterrichtlijn, VMM 2006*¹²⁷¹⁰⁸).

11.2 Spatial use

The areas for tourism and recreation are primarily steered by spatial planning (see also theme **Social and economic environment**). Instruments such as the spatial structure plans, spatial implementation plans (RUP) and regulations, on a Flemish, provincial and municipal level, indicate the possibilities for the future tourist-recreational developments of a specific area.

In the Flemish spatial structure plan (*RSV*), the coast is identified as an urban network which is a structure on a Flemish level. Because of its tourist-recreational facilities, the coast is also recognised as a tourist-recreational network which requires a policy on a Flemish level (this policy has not been developed yet). Furthermore, the designation of Ostend and Bruges as regional urban areas (regionaal stedelijke gebieden) and Blankenberge and Knokke-Heist as local urban areas (*kleinstedelijke gebieden*) in the RSV is important for the tourism sector as this designation has consequences for the potential 'highly dynamic functions' that may be developed in the coastal region. Tourism Flanders-Brussels drafted a study on the Spatial use of Tourism and Recreation in Flanders (*Ruimte voor Toerisme en Recreatie in Vlaanderen (WES, 2007)*¹¹⁹²⁹⁵) in order to provide input for a large reconsideration of the *RSV* of 2011. In addition to the RSV, the regional spatial implementation plans (GRUPs) can be consulted at: www.ruimtelijkeordening.be.

The Flemish government is the owner of almost all beaches along the coast. The Coastal Division grants concessions for the development, maintenance and exploitation of the marinas for water recreation and sports along the Flemish Coast ([website afdeling Kust](http://www.afdeling.kust.be)). The Coastal Division also distributes the concessions for the beach and seawall in consultation with the municipalities, other public councils, contractors, etc. ([website afdeling Kust](http://www.afdeling.kust.be)).

Important regional policies for the coast have been formulated in the spatial structure plan of the province of West Flanders (*PRS-WV*) (currently under reconsideration). In the PRS-WV, several coastal municipalities have been selected as 'main coastal villages' (*kusthoofddorpen*) with opportunities for development under specific conditions. Furthermore, an action plan for the 'Koninklijke Baan (N34)' road has been discussed in the provincial spatial structure plan (more information: *Vaarheen met de Koninklijke Baan? 2008*²¹⁴⁸¹⁸). The *PRS-WV* also demarcates outdoor recreational green domains, amusement parks and tourist-recreational linear elements (watercourses, railway track, seawall and road infrastructure). Furthermore, three strategic project areas have been selected with important touristic and recreational aspects (*PRS-WV, strategisch beleidsplan voor toerisme aan de kust 2009-2014*²¹⁶⁸³⁵): the mouth of the river Yser at Nieuwpoort (*geïntegreerde gebiedsgerichte projecten, meer dan een experiment 2007*²²⁵³⁶⁶), the area east of Blankenberge (*Plan-MER voor publieke consultatie 2011*²²⁵⁴⁹⁷) and the area south of the station of Knokke (*Toelichtingsnota afbakening van het structuurondersteunend kleinstedelijk gebied Knokke-Heist 2010*²²⁵⁵⁰⁰). In addition, the *provincial spatial implementation plans* (in particular the provincial RUPs for beach and seawall) are of significant importance for the planning of the tourist-recreational functioning of the coastal zone.

At the municipal level, processes are under development, that create new possibilities for tourism and recreation within the municipal structure plans. These possibilities are elaborated in detail in spatial implementation plans.

11.3 Societal interest

11.3.1 Coastal tourism

The tourist-recreational sector is of crucial importance for the coastal economy. In 2011, the coast accounted for 5,715,223 arrivals and a total of 32,554,895 overnight stays (incl. marinas) (table 1 and figure 1). Commercial accommodation constitutes 45.8% of these stays, second home tourism 53.8% and mooring in the marinas 0.5%. In addition, 19,131,095 day trippers arrived on the coast in 2011 (*tendrapport Kust 2006-2011*²²⁵³⁷⁶, more information, *Vakantieganger in commercieel logies aan de Kust in 2011*²²⁵³⁷⁸, *Callens 2010*²¹⁴⁶⁷⁶).

Table 1. Arrivals and overnight stays (excl. marinas) on the coast in 2011(*tendrapport Kust 2006-2011*²²⁵³⁷⁶).

	ARRIVALS (2011)		OVERNIGHT STAYS (2011)	
Commercial accommodation (holiday houses, hotels, camping grounds, holiday centers and holiday parks)	2,768,244	48.4%	14,906,445	46.0%
Second home tourism (holiday houses)	2,334,913	40.9%	13,929,317	43.0%
Second home tourism (on camping grounds)	612,066	10.7%	3,568,943	11.0%
Total	5,715,223		32,404,705	

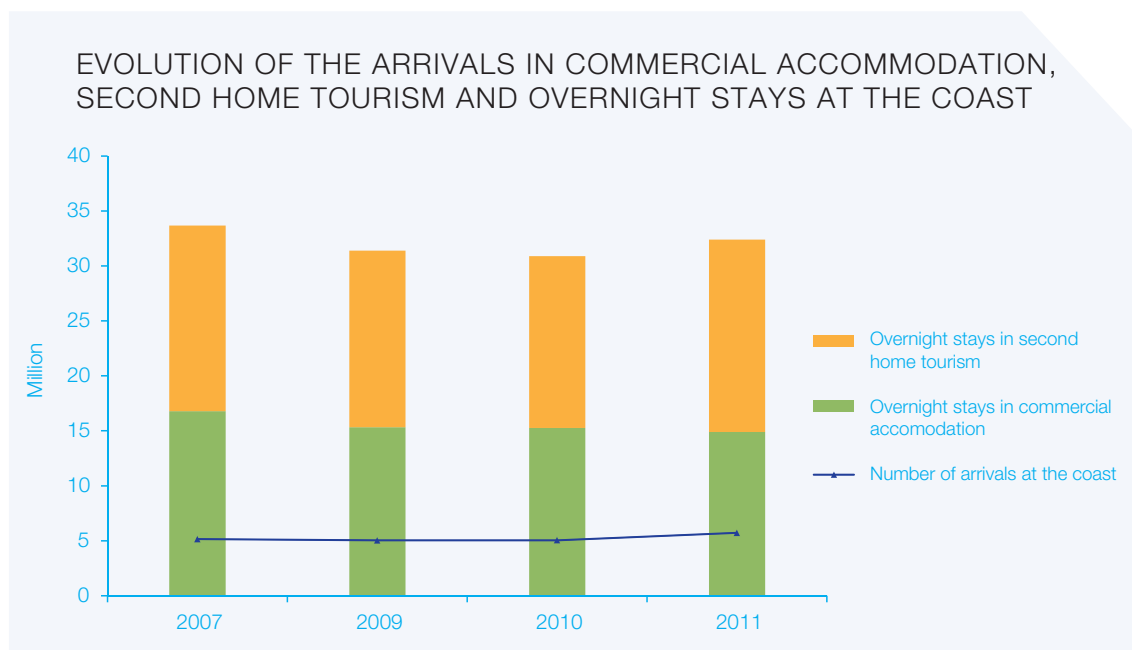


Figure 1. Evolution of the arrivals in commercial accommodation, second home tourism and overnight stays at the coast (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁶).

The registered direct turnover of the hotel and catering industry and retail outlets on the coast amounted to 651 million euros and 1.3 billion euros respectively (2010) (Source: FPS Finance (VAT-database) in *trendrapport Kust 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁶). The direct spending generated by residential tourism on the one hand (commercial accommodation, second home tourism and mooring in marinas) and day trippers on the other hand amounted to more than 2.8 billion euros (table 2 and figure 2). In this context, residential tourism represents 2.2 billion euros in direct spending whereas the day trippers account for 659.9 million euros (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁶, more information: *Vakantieganger in commercieel logies aan de Kust in 2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁸, *Callens 2010* ²¹⁴⁶⁷⁶). The direct turnover of the construction sector as a result of the construction of second homes amounted to 367 million euros in 2007 (*IDEA consult 2009* ¹³⁵⁴⁴⁶).

Table 2. The direct spending of coastal tourism per type of tourism in 2011 (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁶).

TYPE OF TOURISM	DIRECT SPENDING OF TOURISTS IN MILLION EUROS	PERCENTAGE OF DIRECT SPENDING
Commercial accommodation	914.6	32.2
Second home tourism	1,248.5	43.9
Mooring in marinas	12.5	0.4
Day trippers	668.8	23.5
Total	2,844.4	100

The activities of the Belgians during day trips (*inter alia* to the coast) were examined in detail in the following study: *pilootonderzoek naar daguitstappen van de Belg (2010-2011)* ²²⁵⁴⁹³. This report shows that the majority of day trips to the coastal region are focused on visiting the sea, beach and dunes (76.6%), followed by amusement parks (7.8%), sightseeing (2%) and other activities such as hiking, gastronomy, shopping, events, museums, etc. According to the trend report (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁶) 25 water sport clubs and 12 yacht clubs (3,356 moorages) were active in 2011 along the coast. The spending at the yacht clubs increased to 12.5 million euros and the renting of sports equipment amounted to 12.8 million euros. The economic benefits of these recreation and sport activities on the coast (without indirect effects) are also discussed in *De Wachter & Volckaert (2005)* ⁷⁸³⁰² (*GAUFRE project BELSPO*). In the *SEACo project* the economic importance of yacht clubs will be further investigated.

THE TOTAL DIRECT SPENDING OF COASTAL TOURISM PER TYPE OF TOURISM IN 2011

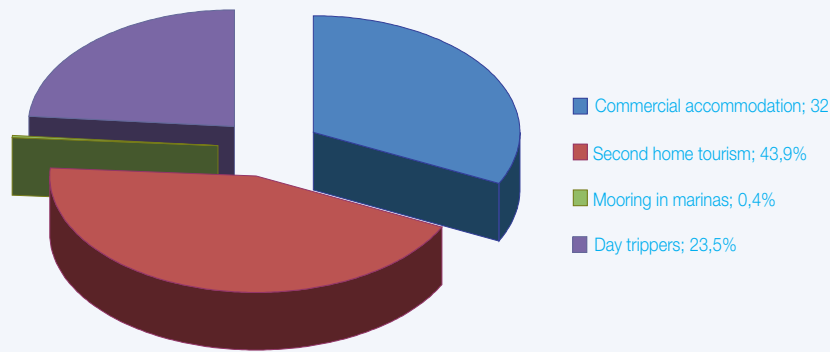


Figure 2. The total direct spending of coastal tourism per type of tourism in 2011 (*trendrapport Kust 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷⁶).

According to statistics of the research department of the Flemish government (based on data from the National Social Security Office (NSSO) and the National Institute for the Social Security of the Self-employed (NISSE)), the total employment of employees in the tourism industry on the coast in 2010 amounted to 11,253 jobs. The employment of the self-employed and helpers on the coast was 2,286 jobs (*Weekers 2013* ²²⁵⁴⁹⁸). According to another study, the direct and indirect employment in 2011 related to tourism on the coast was estimated at more than 42,000 fulltime equivalents (assuming a turnover of 1 million = 10 direct fulltime equivalents and 5 indirect fulltime equivalents) (*toerisme kerncijfers Provincie West-Vlaanderen 2011* ²²⁵³⁸²). Employment in the construction sector related to second home tourism was estimated at 1,814 jobs in 2007 (*IDEA consult 2009* ¹³⁵⁴⁴⁶).

11.3.2 Hinterland tourism

In addition to coastal tourism, tourism in the Westhoek area, the Bruges Woodland and Bruges is of significant importance. The Bruges Woodland accounted for 137,330 visitors and 333,149 overnight stays in 2011 (*trendrapport Brugse Ommeland 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷¹). The arrivals and overnight stays in the Westhoek area amounted to 331,998 and 808,303 respectively (*trendrapport Westhoek 2006-2011* ²²⁵³⁷³). Bruges (excl. Zeebrugge) accounted for 1,142,546 arrivals and 2,038,960 overnight stays in 2011. These are arrivals and overnight stays in commercial accommodation (hotels, youth hostels, social tourism establishment, camp sites, guest rooms and rented holiday homes) (Source: *Trendrapport KiTS Brugge (excl. Zeebrugge) 2006-2011*). In these trend reports, spending and employment are discussed as well.

11.4 Impact

As mentioned above, coastal tourism has a significant economic and social value. However, tourism in the coastal area has a number of effects on the social and ecological environment. On the social level, the amount of second homes has an impact on the quality of life along the coast: higher real estate prices, weakened social environment, mobility problems, etc. (Coudenys 2012 and Keunen & Hoornaert 2012 in *Maelfait et al. 2012* ²²¹⁰¹⁶, *Meire & Bracke 2005* ¹¹⁴³⁹⁷, *Goffin et al. 2007*, ¹¹⁴²²⁵ (see also theme **Social and economic environment**)). On the other hand, the high concentration of tourists provides several utilities such as the coastal tram.

The large amount of second homes also affects the cultural heritage of the coast (*IDEA consult 2009* ¹³⁵⁴⁴⁶) (see theme **Maritime and coastal heritage**), though clear synergies between tourism and the coastal heritage are present, such as the tourism function of cultural-historical buildings along the coast (*De Baerdemaeker et al. 2011* ²¹⁴⁵⁹⁵).

On an ecological level, the development of coastal tourism with the massive construction of tourist-recreational accommodation (holiday houses, camping grounds, holiday parks, second homes, etc.) has played an important role in the fragmentation of valuable open space and in the disappearance of habitats (*PRS-WV*, *Goffin et al. 2007*¹¹⁴²²⁵, Boone 2012 in *Maelfait et al. 2012*²²¹⁰¹⁶). Especially the dune area underwent a strong fragmentation, *inter alia* caused by spatial planning (*Welkom in de duinen 2008*²²⁶⁵⁶⁰) (see theme **Nature and environment**). Furthermore, the high concentration of tourists and residents in the coastal zone during the high season has some direct and indirect ecological effects (table 3). Also, recreation and sport activities on the beach and in the dunes have direct and indirect ecological effects (table 4).

Table 3. An overview of the ecological effects caused by the high concentration of tourists and residents in the coastal area.

IMPACT	LITERATURE
Increased consumption of energy and water	<i>Vanlerberghe & Vanhoutte 2001</i> ²⁴⁵³⁸ , <i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵ (see also theme Agriculture , salinisation)
Problems with waste processing	<i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵ , De Groof in <i>Maelfait et al. 2012</i> ²²¹⁰¹⁶ , <i>kustactieplan OVAM</i> ²¹⁴⁸⁴⁶
Contribution of coastal tourism to the eutrophication of the coastal waters	<i>Maes et al. 2004</i> ⁷⁰⁹³⁶ (<i>MARE-DASM project BELSPO</i>) (see theme Agriculture)
Pollution caused by traffic	<i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵

Table 4. An overview of the ecological effects caused by recreation and sport activities on the beach and in the dunes.

IMPACT	LITERATURE
Trampling and disruption of the beach and dune ecosystem	<i>Vincx et al. 2001</i> ²⁰¹⁶⁶ , <i>Maes et al. 2004</i> ⁷⁰⁹³⁶ (<i>MARE-DASM project BELSPO</i>), <i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵ , <i>Deros 2005</i> ⁷⁸³⁰⁰ (<i>GAUFRE project BELSPO</i>), <i>Welkom in de duinen 2008</i> ²²⁶⁵⁶⁰ (see theme Nature and environment)
Litter on the beach	<i>Lescrauwaet et al. 2006</i> ¹⁰⁵²⁰⁰ , <i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵ , <i>Maelfait 2008</i> ¹⁴³²⁹⁴ , <i>Doomen et al. 2009</i> ²¹⁴⁵⁵⁵ , <i>André et al. 2010</i> ²⁰⁰⁶¹³ (see theme Nature and environment)
Mechanical cleaning of the beaches and its associated ecological effects	<i>Belpaeme 2003</i> ³⁸⁴¹² , <i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵ , <i>Doomen et al. 2009</i> ²¹⁴⁵⁵⁵ (see theme Nature and environment)
Pollution by recreational boating	<i>Maes et al. 2004</i> ⁷⁰⁹³⁶ (<i>MARE-DASM project BELSPO</i>), <i>De Wachter & Volckaert 2005</i> ⁷⁸³⁰² (<i>GAUFRE project BELSPO</i>), <i>Lescrauwaet et al. 2006</i> ¹⁰⁵²⁰⁰ , <i>Goffin et al. 2007</i> ¹¹⁴²²⁵
Sport fisheries	see theme Fisheries

11.5 Sustainable use

11.5.1 A sustainable development of coastal tourism

The sustainable co-existence of the various users and sectors of the coastal areas (*inter alia* tourism and recreation) is discussed in the *European recommendation on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in Europe (2002/413/EC; see theme Integrated coastal zone management)*. In Belgium, the *Coordination Centre for Integrated Coastal Zone Management* is the contact point for ICZM. One of their main objectives is the support of sustainable tourism and recreation. In *Maelfait et al. (2012)*²²¹⁰¹⁶, published by the Coordination Centre for ICZM, measures are proposed that promote the sustainable development of tourism and recreation on the coast. In the theme about **Integrated coastal zone management**, some studies and initiatives which develop visions for the coastal zone are discussed.

In the strategic policy plan for tourism at the coast (*het strategisch beleidsplan voor toerisme aan de kust (2009-2014)*²¹⁶⁸³⁵), *Tourism Flanders-Brussels* and *Westtoer* formulated 6 strategic objectives in order to fulfill the needs of tourists in a sustainable manner but also to ensure the socio-economic position of coastal tourism:

- The improvement of the quality of the coastal product and service;
- Expansion of the experience value of the coastal product with respect for sustainability;
- The maintenance of the balance between the different types of coastal tourism: residential tourism in commercial accommodation, second home tourism and daytrip tourism;
- The adjustment of the market approach by a more efficient use of the resources;
- The development of a stronger image for the coast as a holiday destination during the whole year and aiming for cooperation with the private sector with regard to specific offers;
- Structural investment in the future of coastal tourism.

The Coastal Impulse Programme (*Impulsprogramma Kust*) (before *het Kustactieplan*) responds to the mentioned strategic objectives by means of 3 types of measures: investments, sector support (education, quality and innovation) and image-enhancing events and marketing (*nota aan Vlaamse regering*²²⁵⁴⁹⁶). In this context, the further development of coastal tourism is largely affected by spatial planning (see **Spatial use**).

Several labels (such as *Blauwe vlag* of *Bond Beter Leefmilieu*, the *Q-label* for touristic entrepreneurs, *Groene Sleutel*, *het toegankelijkheidslabel*, etc. more information: *website Toerisme Vlaanderen*) and studies (e.g. *Kindvriendelijkheid aan de Vlaamse kust 2008*²¹⁴⁸⁴⁸, the project '120 km coastal quality' with studies such as *van Meenen 2009*²¹⁴⁸³¹ and *Pijpers 2009*²¹⁴⁸³², etc.) contribute to sustainable (coastal) tourism. In the theme about **Integrated coastal zone management**, several visions with regard to the development of the coastal region (incl. coastal tourism) are discussed.

11.5.2 Accessibility of and mobility along the coast

In *Maelfait et al. (2012)*²²¹⁰¹⁶ measures are discussed that improve the accessibility of the coast (more information: *Goffin et al. 2007*¹¹⁴²²⁵). Integral accessibility of the tourist infrastructure for people with disabilities and elderly people is argued for (more information: *kansen aan de kust 2009*²¹⁴⁸³⁴ in the context of the project '120 km coastal quality'). The problem of accessibility and equal opportunities in West Flanders is the main task of the non-profit organisation *Westkans* (*Vervaeke et al. 2011*²²⁵³⁶⁴). Commissioned by Tourism Flanders-Brussels, *Westkans* screens the tourist infrastructures with regard to their accessibility and awards an *accessibility label* (Mampaey 2012 in *Maelfait et al. 2012*²²¹⁰¹⁶).

The mobility problems along the coast are managed on the Flemish level in the Mobility plan of Flanders (final report of public inquiry: *Glorieux et al. 2011*²¹⁴⁸²²), as well as in the Flemish spatial structure plan (*RSV*) in the development perspectives of the road infrastructure (e.g. the circulation of touristic traffic to and from the east coast), of the infrastructure of suburban traffic and of public transport in the periphery (e.g. coastal trams, more information: *Mobiliteitsvisie 2020*²¹⁴⁵⁶⁰ of De Lijn) and of the waterways infrastructure (e.g. coastal shipping). On the provincial and municipal level, mobility problems are discussed as well in the provincial spatial structure plan of West Flanders (*PRS-WV*) (more information: *Waarheen met de Koninklijke Baan? 2008*²¹⁴⁸¹⁸) and in the municipal mobility plans. In Monballyu (2012) (*Maelfait et al. 2012*)²²¹⁰¹⁶ the use of public transport by day trippers is elaborated in detail.

11.5.3 Tourism and nature

In *Goffin et al. (2007)*¹¹⁴²²⁵, *Maelfait et al. (2012)*²²¹⁰¹⁶ and *het strategisch beleidsplan voor toerisme aan de kust (2009-2014)*²¹⁶⁸³⁵ measures are formulated from an ecological perspective in order to achieve a balance between the maintenance of the natural system and the needs of recreationists and tourists. In this regard, policy instruments such as the *Dune Decree* and spatial planning play an important role and are discussed in more detail in the theme **Nature and environment**. The compatibility of recreation and nature is also discussed in publications such as *Belpaeme (2003)*³⁸⁴¹², *Zwaenepoel et al. (2005)*¹⁰⁸⁶⁰⁹, *Uitkerkse polder, een recreatieve meerwaarde voor de Vlaamse kust (2007)*²¹⁴⁸⁴⁹, *Welkom in de duinen (2008)*²²⁶⁵⁶⁰ and *Doomen et al. (2009)*²¹⁴⁵⁵⁵.

The (bathing) water quality of the coastal zone is managed on the European level by the *Directive 91/271/EC* concerning urban waste-water treatment, the *Water Framework Directive* (WFD) (2000/60/EC) and the *Directive 2006/7/EC* concerning the bathing water quality.

On the federal level, these European measures are implemented in the *Royal Decree of 23 June 2010 concerning the status of surface waters*. On the Flemish level, the following decrees are important: the *Decree of 18 July 2003*

(integrated water policy) (more information: [website Coordination Committee on Integrated Water Policy \(CIW\)](#)) and the *Decree of 8 December 1998 concerning the bathing water quality*.

The quality of the bathing water off the coast is frequently sampled by the Flemish Environment Agency ([VMM](#) and the [website kwaliteit zwemwater](#)) ([Goffin et al. 2007](#)¹¹⁴²²⁵, Pelicaen 2012 in [Maelfait et al. 2012](#)²²¹⁰¹⁶). The [Flemish Agency for Care and Health](#) ensures the health aspect of the bathing water quality. The eutrophication of the coastal waters and the problem of salinisation are discussed in more detail in the theme **Agriculture**.

Legislation reference list

Table with European legislation. The consolidated version of this legislation is available on [Eurlex](#).

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION			
Abbreviations (if available)	Title	Year	Number
Directives			
	Council Directive concerning urban waste-water treatment	1991	271
Water Framework Directive	Directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy	2000	60
Bathing water Directive	Directive concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC	2006	7
Other (Decisions, Communications, White Papers, etc.)			
	Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe	2002	413

Table with Belgian and Flemish legislation. The consolidated version of this legislation is available on [Belgisch staatsblad](#) and the [Justel-databases](#).

BELGIAN AND FLEMISH LEGISLATION	
Date	Title
Laws	
Wet van 20 januari 1999	Wet ter bescherming van het mariene milieu en ter organisatie van de mariene ruimtelijke planning in de zeegebieden onder de rechtsbevoegdheid van België
Royal Decrees	
KB van 4 augustus 1981	Koninklijk besluit houdende politie- en scheepvaartreglement voor de Belgische territoriale zee, de havens en de stranden van de Belgische kust
KB van 23 juni 2010	Koninklijk besluit betreffende de vaststelling van een kader voor het bereiken van een goede oppervlaktewatertoestand
Decrees	
Decreet van 18 juli 2003	Decreet betreffende het integraal waterbeleid
Other	
Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 8 december 1998	Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering tot aanduiding van de oppervlaktewateren bestemd voor de productie van drinkwater categorieën A1, A2 en A3, zwemwater, viswater en schelpdierwater, ter omzetting van Richtlijn 2006/7/EG van het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 15 februari 2006 betreffende het beheer van de zwemwaterkwaliteit en tot intrekking van Richtlijn 76/160/EEG

